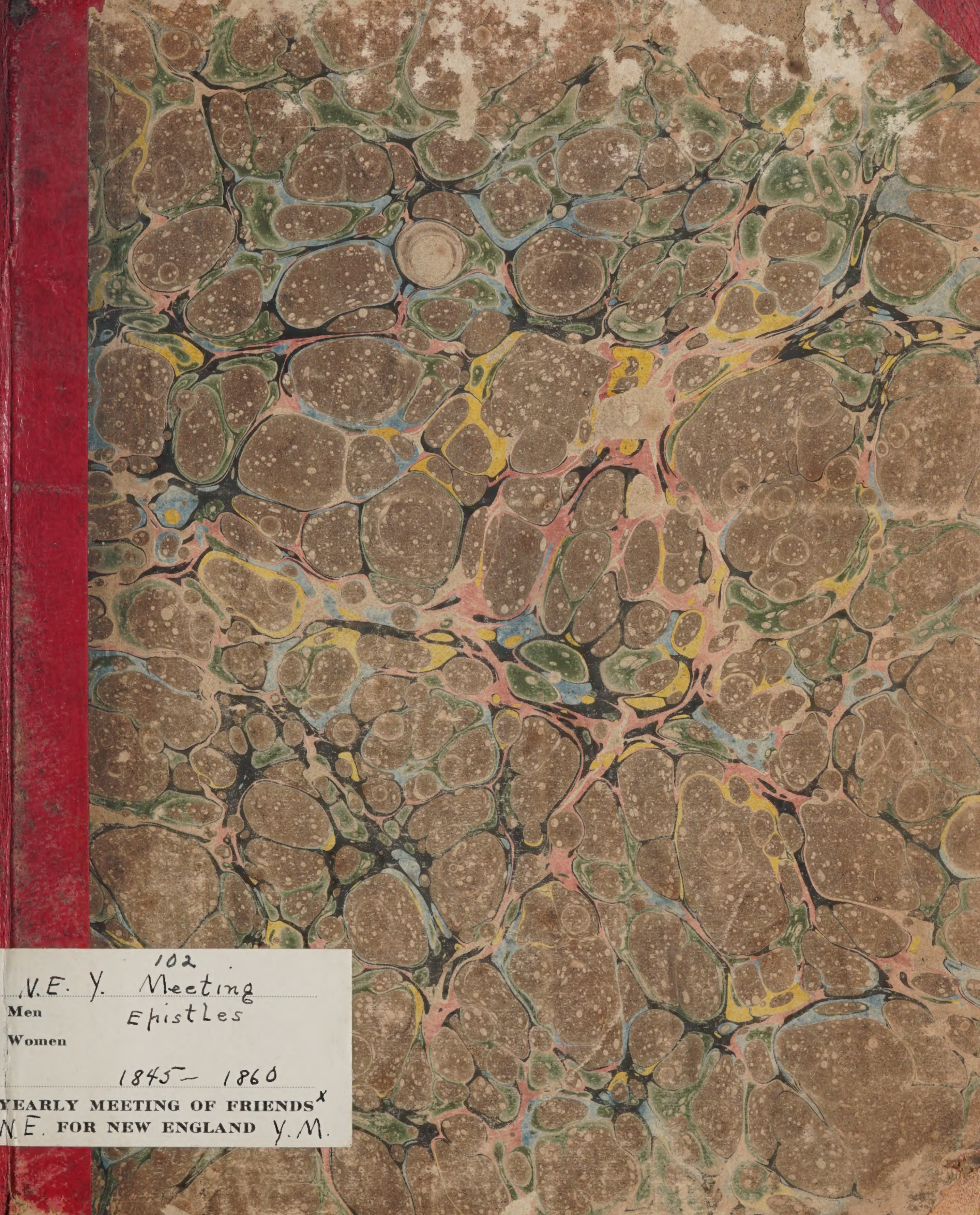

102

N.E. Y. Meeting

Men Epistles

Women

1845 – 1860

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS x

N.E. FOR NEW ENGLAND Y.M.

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Y.M.
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N.E. Yearly Mtg
Men
Women
Epistles
1845–1860

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

Epistles,

Issued by the Yearly Meeting

# of Friends,

For New England, held on Rhode Island;

From the year 1845, to -

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Epistles,

Issued by the Yearly Meeting in the 6th month, 1845.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in London.

Dear Friends

We are drawn to salute you in the love of Christ, our Holy Head, and to acknowledge unto you that our minds are introduced into near feeling and tender sympathy with the wrestling seed of Jacob in your land, whether scattered abroad or compacted together, with fervent desires that the God and Father of all our sure mercies may keep you and comfort you with the gift of his abundant Grace to the strengthening of you to do good and to serve Him, with a perfect heart and with a willing mind; to the honour of the Lord's great and excellent name, and to the exaltation of the testimony of Jesus, the blessed messenger and Mediator of the covenant of life and power, sanctified and made good to all the true believers in Him. And this we desire not only for you, but for ourselves, that we may experience preservation through the many trials that may fall to our lot in this a day of Israel's adversity), wherein the enemy of all the Lord's people, is seeking to lay waste and destroy; and to delude unawares and unsuspected even the children of God; and through the deceivableness of unrighteousness to darken the visions of light, and so to bewilder them, and to tarnish the living and glorious testimony of Truth in their view, and to beguile them from the way which leadeth up to Mount Zion the city of the saints solemnities. —

Oh! dear Friends! we have seen the bitter fruits in in our land of this beguiling spirit, and its tendency to divide in Jacob and scatter in Israel; because it speaks with a double tongue, and works in the instability of a double mind: It leads to a perversion of the law of Christ, scattereth from the holy enclosure of the One Shepherd, and brings into the condition of a reprobate mind, out of which proceed jealousies dissensions and persecutions, and these have gone forth through the land, the legitimate fruits of apostate doctrine. Many who have been drawn into the support thereof, have also sorrowfully disregarded the wholesome restraints of our Christian discipline whenever the accomplishment of their designs required it.

By this dividing spirit dear friends and at the hands of those who are under its influence, some among us who have made a stand against it, and endeavoured to abide faithful and uncompromising in the doctrines of Friends, have been greatly oppressed and their rights of membership so much dearer than any earthly treasure have been taken from them; and some of our Monthly Meetings have met with great injustice from the same source. One of these meetings has been laid down in a manner contrary to discipline, and in another a schism has been effected through the unhallowed measures and efforts of some ruling men who were not members of it, and a spurious meeting was set up by them, and its accounts received at the Quarterly Meeting through their control, while those from the legitimate monthly Meeting were rejected; whereby they identified themselves and their Quarterly Meeting with a spurious Monthly Meeting. — And again these men influenced by the love of power and biased in favour of unsound doctrines and their authors, having the greater control of the Yearly Meeting caused the larger part of that body to identify themselves with that spurious Quarterly and Monthly Meeting: and they having declined to appoint a Clerk at the time prescribed by our discipline, in their anxiety to subject all to their wills, refused to accept the true account; therefore those Friends who remained faithful to our doctrines and discipline, through their representatives from different quarters, named and appointed the Clerks of New England Yearly Meeting in due form, and proceeded to business; and from thence we have continued through the several sittings of this Yearly Meeting, whose concerns have been transacted in great harmony and botherly love. The merciful overshadowing of the Divine presence through the descending of His Grace and Good Spirit have been experienced in a remarkable manner, to the great refreshment and consolation of our souls, under a grateful sense whereof, and of our notable deliverance from the house of bondage, our hearts have been lifted up in thanksgiving and praise to His great and glorious and excellent Name.

Well then dear friends pray for us that our faith fail not, but that our feet may abide upon the Rock of ages, whereon firmly stood our worthy predecessors through the mighty storm which assailed them. So that the blessed testimonies, which descended to this people through their hands may never fall to the ground, nor be lost for the want of faithful men and women to uphold them.

Finally dear friends, may the God of all consolation, comfort strengthen and stablish all the honest hearted, both with you and with us, enabling them unreservedly and without the fear of man to do His will and to walk in the fear of the Lord, to the praise of His great and ever worthy Name. In this desire and prayer unto God for the preservation of his people we conclude and are your friends.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the fifteenth of the sixth month to the twenty third of the same inclusive Eighteen Hundred and forty five.

Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

P.S. We have appointed our friends John Wilbur of Hopkinton, Rhode Island; Job Eddy of New Bedford, Massachusetts; and Thomas B. Gould of Newport, Rhode Island correspondents for the Yearly Meetings of London and Dublin; of which the Clerk was directed to inform you, and also to forward to you, herewith, a copy of "An Epistolary Declaration and Testimony", which we have been concerned to issue at this time. In which the proceedings of the Seperatists are briefly set forth and their Doctrines are contrasted with the ancient and established Doctrines of Friends.

Signed as aforesaid

Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Dublin.

Dear Friends,

Under the gathering influence of brotherly love; and of that Christian fellowship which binds together in the truth, we are again constrained to address you.

We are convened at this time under very painful and trying circumstances. Our lot has been that of much proving and deep suffering. But through the abundant mercies of our Almighty Helper, we have on the present occasion measurably experienced a safe deliverance. Our Zion has been invaded, and her alters trodden down; but through divine goodness we are comforted in believing that there is a living remnant preserved, although there may be mourners in solitary places.

For a length of time there have been spread among us unsound views and doctrines, to support which a disregard of the discipline has been manifested. — During the past year a separation has been effected in one of our Quarterly Meetings, through the undue influence of those who have for several years been actively engaged in laying waste the doctrines & discipline of our religious Society, which has now extended to the Yearly Meeting.

But we can inform you dear friends, that there are those still left who are loyal to our testimonies, and who have been favoured quietly yet firmly to make a stand against innovation, and who are concerned to uphold the standard of truth and righteousness, even as it was upheld by our dear suffering forefathers in the Truth, and we feel that we have cause at this time through the aboundings of our Heavenly Father's love, to commemorate his goodness.

As we have mingled together in our several sittings for business, there has been manifested a brotherly harmony and christian condescension peculiarly sweet to us. And in our silent waiting together there has been a flowing from vessel to vessel, until the whole house has been filled. At such seasons as these under a renewed sense of our frailty, and the well known subtilty of our unwearied enemy, whose snares we have been favoured thus far in good measure to escape, our absent brethren have been brought very near to our feelings, and we feel concerned affectionately to warn you, to beware of that spirit, which has produced such devastation among us. — In the love of the gospel we are your friends.

Signed on behalf, and by directions, of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 13th. of the Sixth month to the 23d. of the same inclusive, 1845.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

P. S. We have appointed our Friends John Wilbur of Hopkinton Rhode Island, Job Eddy of New Bedford Massachusetts, and Thomas B. Gould of Newport Rhode Island, correspondents for the Yearly Meetings of London and Dublin — of which the Clerk was directed to inform you; and also to forward to you herewith, a copy of "An Epistolary Declaration and Testimony", which we have been concerned to issue at this time: wherein the sentiments of the Separatists are briefly set forth; and their Doctrines are contrasted with the ancient and established Doctrines of Friends.

Signed as aforesaid

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

Sweet is the fellowship of that Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation, to all those that rightly believe in his holy name. Ye know it was this Power which first gathered us to be a people, and which supported our worthy predecessors in the Truth under the various and complicated trials through which they were called to pass, and which they patiently and cheerfully endured, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Him who died to redeem them, and whose life-giving presence far overbalanced all the joys which this world could afford.

It is the same blessed Power we trust, that has supported us at the present time under circumstances of great trial and affliction. Although it may not be necessary to enter into the sad details relative thereto, yet it seems right for us to spread before you the information that for several years there have been promulgated amongst us, principles & doctrines at variance with those clear and scriptural views of Christian doctrine which our early Friends were led into by the unerring Spirit of Truth, and which are recorded not only in the Holy Scriptures, but in the "Apology for the True Christian Divinity" by Robert Barclay, whose interpretations of Scripture we believe to be according to the Divine mind and will, as revealed to us by the light of Christ in our own consciences. Many well concerned friends have honestly laboured to prevent the introduction of these new principles and doctrines, knowing that discord must necessarily ensue therefrom. These have been oppressed for so doing, in various ways. Some have even been disowned for their faithful testimony; to effect which the discipline has been repeatedly violated, and those wholesome rules and regulations which were established in the wisdom and authority of truth, to keep every thing sweet and savoury in the camp, have been perverted into engines of oppression. — But He who knows what is best for his afflicted people, and who maketh even the wrath of man to praise him, has now permitted these disaffected members who for several years have been actively engaged in endeavouring to lay waste the doctrines and discipline of our religious Society, openly to manifest themselves in effecting a separation therefrom, thus working for us a marvellous deliverance, the praise for which we desire to ascribe to his holy, blessed name, and to his alone.

In conformity with that strict and impartial justice which is due to all men, and more especially to brethren of the same faith and household, we have, with entire unanimity and much tenderness of feeling related to the rights and privileges of membership, and to their former station in society, two friends, whose disownment was effected contrary to our discipline, through the influence of those persons who have now separated themselves from us. — We have also at this time restored to all its former rights and privileges, one of our Monthly Meetings, which was laid down through the same influence, and in a like violation of the discipline.

Dear brethren, we do not feel that there is need of many words, but desire that you may read us in the everlasting seed, where alone the true unity is. — Our business has been transacted in much harmony and condescension of feeling, and we have been mercifully favoured at times during the various sittings of the Yearly Meeting, to witness the overshadowings of heavenly good, and have been sweetly comforted in the belief that the Lord will yet arise to build the waste places of Zion; that the true watchmen throughout the camp will continue to see eye to eye, and the trumpets of Israel give a clear and certain sound to rally to that blessed standard which was so faithfully upheld, when the Lord first called us to be a people.

With sincere desires, that we may all individually and collectively witness the blessing of preservation in the truth, we are your friends.

Signed on behalf, and by direction of the Yearly meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 13th. of the sixth month, to the 23d. of the same inclusive, 1845.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

P. S. We forward to you herewith a copy of "An Episheavy Declaration and Testimony" which we have been engaged to issue at this time. Wherein the proceedings of the Separatists are briefly set forth and "the Doctrines which they have promulgated and supported" are contrasted with "those which have always been held by Friends."

Signed as abovesaid.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England, held on Rhode Island; — to the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in New-York.

Dear Friends,

We feel bound to commemorate the loving kindness and tender mercy of the Shepherd of Israel, in that he hath not been unmindful of us in our low estate, but hath given us strength according to the day of deep proving and sore conflict, through which we have had to pass for His great Name's sake. He hath been pleased as we humbly trust to guide us by His counsel, — to uphold us by His free spirit: — and at times and seasons during this Yearly Meeting to comfort us with His love in a remarkable manner. And when we have thus been permitted to sit under the shadow of the Wing of Ancient Goodness, our distant brethren have been brought nearly and affectionately to our remembrance, with earnest and we trust living desires for our mutual preservation upon the "sure foundation" Christ Jesus the rock of Ages.

The cause of Truth, and the maintenance of those peculiar Christian principles and testimonies which our worthy suffering forefathers were led into by the Light of Christ in them; and which they were enabled, by the power of the Gospel to hold forth convincingly to the world, in the midst of reproaches and persecutions; continue to be exceedingly precious unto us, and we have felt our minds drawn into near sympathy with a remnant amongst you, who, we believe are truly concerned for the support of the same principles in all their fulness and upon their original ground; who having received the like precious faith with them, feel bound to contend earnestly for it, as for that which was once, and still is, delivered to the saints.

Dear Friends, it cannot be unknown to you that of latter time, the spirit of the world has so blinded the eyes of many under our name as to cause a desire in such to lower the standard of our high and holy profession, by both secretly and openly endeavoring to bring in and establish new principles and "strange doctrines" at variance with the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and subversive of the true faith in Him and his glorious Gospel.

As it was by coming into, and abiding "in the unity of the faith" and a living "knowledge of the dear Son of God" that our primitive Friends were gathered, and that we have been preserved and harmoniously "compacted" as a distinct and peculiar people, to the praise of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light; — so a departure from, or a denial of this faith in which the unity and fellowship stands, must necessarily have a tendency to divide in Jacob and scatter in Israel. Of this truth we have had mournful evidence in this Yearly Meeting for several years past, and renewedly so at this time.

Those disaffected and deluded individuals amongst us, who at first connived at the introduction and promulgation of unsound doctrines, were soon prepared to advocate them and defend their author, and also to resist and oppose such as could not refrain from testifying against these innovations. From opposition, they have proceeded step by step to proscription and persecution, and in some instances where they were most numerous and powerful, even to the disownment of rightly concerned Friends, on account of their faithful labors to guard the Society against the impending danger. In order to effect their objects they have disregarded individual rights, and repeatedly violated some of the plainest provisions and requisitions of our Discipline. Through the same influence and in a manner wholly unexampled and arbitrary, one of our Monthly Meetings has been laid down:— and failing otherwise to accomplish their purposes, in another they seperated themselves therefrom and set up a new monthly meeting in a manner unknown to the Discipline. From thence they extended the seperation to the Quarterly Meeting and lastly to the Yearly Meeting:— and since they have now wholly seperated themselves from our religious Society and fellowship, we have been enabled to transact the business which has come before us in a satisfactory and harmonious manner; although as was once the case with you on a like sorrowful occasion, the seperatists have exclusively appropriated our meeting house to their own use, and we have been compelled to meet elsewhere.

We fervently desire that those who have thus erred from the faith, rejected the discipline, and separated themselves from our religious society, and so encompassed both themselves and us about with many sorrows; may be mercifully favoured to see the error of their ways and to return repent and live.

We doubt not that many of you can sympathize with us in our afflictions for we know you have had to pass through similar trials: – and in a measure of that Love which enabled the Apostles to be exceeding joyful in all their tribulations, we tenderly salute you and bid you farewell in the Lord.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 15th. to the 23d. inclusive of the sixth month, 1845.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

P. S. – We forward to you herewith a copy of "An Epistolary Declaration and Testimony" which we have been concerned to issue at this time wherein the proceedings of the separatists are more fully set forth, and "the doctrines which they have promulgated and supported" are contrasted with those which have always been held by Friends".

Signed as abovesaid,

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Dear Friends,

Having met at this time under a deep and awful concern, and sense of our great weakness and unworthiness to transact the business of the Church in such manner as will redound to the glory of its Great Head, we feel constrained to salute you in the love of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, desiring that you with us may be enabled to stand firm upon the everlasting foundation, Jesus Christ the Rock of Ages, as set forth by the prophets and apostles, and also by that faithful servant of the Lord, George Fox, and not to flinch or turn back in the day of trouble and distress which has been permitted to come upon us, – the burden of which now lies so heavily upon the faithful and honest-hearted standard bearers in our religious Society; — not knowing how far the enemy may have been, or may be permitted to extend his ravages in your borders or to bring you into like trying circumstances with ourselves.

We do not feel the necessity at this time to enter into a very minute account of the schism that has taken place with us, but in a concise manner to refer to the long continued course of misrule and oppression that has borne so heavily upon those who have been faithfully contending against the introduction and spread of unsound doctrines among us, in the course of which a Monthly Meeting has been put down, and many individuals made to suffer from these measures which in some instances have extended even to the cutting off of faithful Friends from the right of membership in the Society; until at last a way seems mercifully opened for our deliverance.

It is under a sense of this deliverance, whilst we deeply lament the cause of separation, that our hearts have been bowed in humble thankfulness to the great Preserver of men, and living desires have been raised in us that we may not be as some formerly who sang his praise, but soon forgot his works.

For a more particular account of the trials through which we have had to pass; as also of the mercies and favours vouchsafed during this our Annual assembly, we refer you to the accompanying "Epistolary Declaration and Testimony" which we have been concerned to issue at this time: wherein also the unsound Doctrines which have been spread abroad amongst us, and which have caused the present lamentable secession of a large portion of our members both from the Faith and communion of our Religious Society, are contrasted with Extracts from the Doctrinal writings of some of our Ancient and approved Authors, which have always been considered as exhibiting, on the subjects referred to, the acknowledged and established principles of the Religious Society of Friends.

With fervent desires for our united & faithful adherence to these Principles, and with the salutation of Gospel Love we remain your Friends and brethren.

Signed by direction, and on behalf, of our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 15th. of the Sixth month to the 23 of the same inclusive, 1845.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends for
North Carolina.

Dear Friends,

It has been under a great weight of affliction that we have come up to our Annual assembly, and with hearts we trust contrited before the Lord the righteous Judge in view of the grievous departure of many of those, who have been as it were the leaders of our people, from the simplicity of the Truth as it is in Jesus; and who we fear have caused many to err.

For a number of years past great uneasiness has been felt by those amongst us whose desires have been for the welfare of Zion, on account of the proceedings of some who are clearly defective in the support of our ancient Christian doctrines and testimonies, and have exercised an unwarrantable authority in the affairs of the Church. And lamentable is the fact that the love of power and the growth of it in the hands of these has been so great, that in the prosecution of the favorite purpose of sustaining & defending an author from another land, whose writings, widely spread in this country are in many respects plainly at variance with the established, primitive doctrines of our religious Society; which we do most surely believe to be in full accordance with those of pure Christianity; — they have laid waste the good order and wholesome Discipline of the Church apparently regardless of the disastrous consequences of such proceedings.

Committees of the Yearly and Quarterly Meetings composed of such as assumed to be rulers have interfered with the administration of the discipline, and the appointment of the officers in subordinate meetings, declaring their advice to be equally binding with the discipline itself, and practically setting themselves above it. And when their doings with respect to individuals or meetings, many of which have been plainly in violation of our Discipline, have been brought for investigation to the Yearly Meeting; the undue influence and power which these people had attained as well as the fearful lapse of many into their views, has enabled them to sustain themselves apparently by the larger portion of our members.

We have believed it right for us, and have felt a necessity laid upon us, after having suffered so long and labored with the ability afforded us for the restoration and establishment of our ancient principles and discipline on their original ground of Truth, to avail ourselves of the way which, through the instrumentality of these people, has in a remarkable manner been opened for us to be delivered from their hand. And our most earnest desire for you and for ourselves is that we may know an establishment and settlement in the true faith in order that we may be living members of the militant Church, and whatever trials or temptations may be permitted to come upon us to draw us away from the testimonies of Truth, that strength may be mercifully afforded us to overcome all, that having done all we may stand.

Amidst our deep trials and sufferings, as we reverently believe for the sake and cause of our Holy Redeemer, we have not been unmindful of the condition of those unhappily held in Slavery in our land, or your peculiar situation respecting it.

We desire in all it may be our duty to do or say on this important subject, to be governed by that spirit of love which led our fathers far in advance of the world around them, to clear themselves from this iniquity. May we not hope dear Friends that our religious Society may yet in a renewal of its strength & purity, be mighty instrumental in the blessed work of breaking every yoke and letting the oppressed go free.

During the several sittings of this Yearly Meeting it has pleased the Great Head of the Church at times to overshadow us with His presence in a remarkable manner, to the tendering and humiliation of our hearts before Him; and we have had renewed cause to bless and magnify His holy Name, and to utter praises for the deliverance He has wrought out for us.

With the salutation of Gospel love and an earnest desire that you with ourselves may be preserved in the Truth, we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 15th. of the sixth month to the 23d. of the same, inclusive, 1845. -- Thomas B. Gould. Clerk.

P. S. We forward to you herewith a copy of "An Epistolary Declaration and Testimony," which we have been concerned to issue at this time. Wherein the proceedings of the separatists are briefly set forth, and their Doctrines are contrasted with the ancient and established Doctrines of Friends.

Signed as abovesaid,

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Dear Friends,

Although we have received no communication from you at this time (yours of last year not having reached us) yet we have believed it right to address you, in those feelings of brotherly love which we have felt to flow towards our dear absent brethren wherever they may be located, with desires for their establishment on that ancient foundation, on which the righteous in all ages have builded, even the foundation of the Prophets & Apostles, Jesus Christ himself being the cheif corner stone.

We are renewedly persuaded that it is only as we are favoured to know something of a settlement here, that we can experience the blessing of preservation from the snares of the Enemy, and from the commotions of a world that lies in wickedness.

We have met together at this time under circumstances of peculiar trial. The workings of that spirit which delights to divide and scatter has been sorrowfully apparent within our borders – yea that spirit which ruleth in the children of disobedience, hath wrought fearfully amongst us, producing works of desolation and destruction in the heritage of God. The subtle devices of this spirit are only discovered by those who dwell in the light, even in that Light which is the Life of man, and which maketh manifest the hidden works of darkness, and enables us to discover the snares of the wicked one. In and through a measure of this light, as we trust, it has long been seen by the faithful watchmen on the walls of our Zion, that the standard of our Christian testimonies was becoming lowered, and that a disposition has been increasingly manifested to find an easier way to the kingdom of rest and peace, than that narrow tribulated one, trodden by the righteous of all generations; and which, however it may be despised and rejected, remains to be the alone true and living way, as well as the Truth and the Life. — As this spirit has continued to work and progress, the desolating effects thereof have become more and more apparent, and a preparation been gradually brought about to support doctrines greatly at variance with those maintained by our worthy predecessors in religious profession, through deep, diversified and long continued sufferings. Publicity has been given to these sentiments, by the circulation amongst us of books calculated to invalidate and bring into disrepute those clear doctrinal views ever held and most sincerely believed by us as a people, and truly painful is the circumstance that these publications have emanated from persons in high stations in our religious Society: — and that many of those in the same stations in this Yearly Meeting have given their countenance and strength in support of such defective views and the authors thereof; and not only so; but they have arrayed themselves against those who have been burdened & exercised on account of these insidious inroads upon the doctrines and testimonies of our once favored Society, insomuch that they dared not hold their peace but were constrained to bear a faithful testimony not only for the Truth, but against error.

Their faithfulness in this respect has been requited first, with complaint and censure, and finally by dealing and disownment. In bringing about these sad results those who have been engaged therein, have disregarded and violated our Christian discipline in various important particulars, and thus broken down the hedge set up by our worthy predecessors, in the wisdom and authority of Truth for our preservation.

It has been our sincere desire to be enabled to endure in patience and in the spirit of meekness, these accumulated and long continued sufferings until it might please the Great Head of the Church to make a way for our deliverance. This we reverently and thankfully acknowledge He has done at this time in a remarkable manner. And on sitting down together apart from our oppressors who have caused this separation, our hearts have been contrited and humbled; and we have been enabled as we trust in lowliness of spirit to ascribe all unto Him our Gracious Helper for this signal manifestation of His continued regard.

And now dear Friends, to His protecting care, and the word of his grace we commend you, with ourselves, desiring that we may not (like some formerly) after having sung his praise soon forget His works.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island from the 15th. of the 6th. month, to the 23d. of the same inclusive, 1845.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

P.S. We send you herewith a copy of "An Epistolary Declaration and Testimony" &c. which we have been concerned to issue at this time.

Signed as aforesaid
Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

To Indianna Yearly Meeting.

Dear Friends,

Assembled again in our annual meeting, during the several sittings of which we have been graciously favoured with the supporting presence of the great Head of the Church, the alone Master of our assemblies, while under much tribulation and beset with sore trials from those who should be of our own household; we feel renewedly concerned to address our distant brethren, and to encourage them to hold fast the profession of their faith without wavering, in a day when unfaithfulness, and the weakness and barrenness which are its certain effects have laid waste so large a portion of our goodly heritage.

Since we last addressed you the spirit of innovation and misrule which has long manifested itself within our borders, has resulted in a separation in one of our Quarterly Meetings and all its subordinate branches; and in the progress of that disorderly spirit — several faithful friends have been disowned, and one Monthly Meeting dissolved on account of their testimony to the primitive doctrines and practices of our religious society; (which Monthly Meeting and two individual friends, this Yearly Meeting has now restored to their rights,) such being the sorrowful state of things that those in high stations, who should have been the protectors of these afflicted and persecuted standard bearers were indeed their greatest oppressors. — But not intending at this time to enter fully into a history of these painful transactions, we may inform you that the separation has now extended to this Yearly Meeting, and the same individuals who as committees and officers had thus violated the order and discipline of our religious society, have with many others become a distinct meeting and have laid Friends under the necessity of leaving their usual place of assembly in order to be enabled to transact the affairs of society in that good order and quiet which becomes our holy profession.

Yet while we mourn over the large number who have been drawn into this snare of the adversary, and thus become separated from their brethren — we would reverently acknowledge that on sitting down together apart from opposing spirits, we have been encouraged and strengthened by the evidence of Divine regard and favor, which has been mercifully extended, giving us the blessed assurance that we are owned by our Holy Head and high Priest who according to his ancient promise will be a "Crown of glory and a diadem of beauty unto the residue of his people, and for a Spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate."

With fervent desires for your preservation and establishment on the immutable Rock Christ Jesus — we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island from the 15th. to the 23d. inclusive, of the sixth month 1845.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14th. of the Sixth month to the 19th. of the same, inclusive 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in London.

Dear Friends,

Through the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father we have been permitted again to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, and enabled to transact the important concerns which have come before us in much harmony; and under the influence, as we humbly trust of that love which many waters cannot quench, we again address you, desiring that both with you and us there may be a renewed engagement experienced to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing, by which our worthy predecessors were led into those Christian principles and testimonies which we are still called upon to uphold.

May we dear friends, like them be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, following in the footsteps of the flock of Christ, in true subjection and obedience unto him; having fellowship one with another – speaking the same language – and being baptized by one Spirit into the one Body, of which He is the holy Head. But we have been introduced at this time into deep exercise, under a sense of the inroads which the enemy of all good is making, and of his having drawn aside many both in your land and in ours from the true faith of the Gospel as held by Friends from the beginning; and earnest is our desire that such may no longer be permitted to wander as sheep without a shepherd, in the broad fields of vain speculation and on the barren mountains of an empty profession; but that they may be favored to return to the fold of Christ the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls.

Our minds have been brought into near sympathy with a suffering remnant in your land, whose eyes have been anointed to see things as they really are, and who go mourning on their way, under a sense of the danger which awaits us as a people, of departing from the standard of our high and holy profession. May these faithful, tribulated ones possess their souls in patience, and richly experience the blessing of preservation and establishment upon the sure foundation the Rock of ages, against which storms and tempests beat in vain.

Our meeting has been considerably larger than last year, and during the various sittings thereof we have been favored to experience the overshadowings of Heavenly Good, wherein our strength has been renewed, and encouragement vouchsafed to press forward towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With the salutation of love we are your friends.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the meeting
aforesaid by Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From Our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14th. of the Sixth Month to the 19th. of the same inclusive 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in Dublin.

Dear Friends,

Being permitted again to convene in our annual assembly for the transaction of the important affairs of the Church, you have been renewedly brought near to us in the fellowship of the Gospel, although no epistle from your meeting has been at this time received — and we feel our minds engaged thus to address you, desiring that you with us may be encouraged to put hand to hand, and shoulder to shoulder, in support of those precious testimonies which have been given us to bear.

During the several sittings of this meeting, we have been made sensible of our entire inability of ourselves to do any thing for the promotion of the cause of Truth, but we have had cause also to remember the words of our Divine Master, "my grace is sufficient for thee" and that to those who seek aright, he will be strength in weakness and a present helper in the needful time.

We think it unnecessary to enter again into a statement of those circumstances which have for a season interrupted an epistolary intercourse with you; but would briefly inform you that our meeting has been considerably larger than last year. that we have been mercifully favoured to transact the business which has come before us in much harmony; - under a consoling evidence of the presence of the great Head of the Church; and we have been renewedly confirmed in the belief that as we dwell low and humble before him he will continue to direct us in the paths of true judgment.

With the salutation of love we are your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting
aforesaid, by Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 14th. of the sixth month to the 19th. of the same inclusive, 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be
held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

Although we have received no epistle from you at this time, yet we are constrained to address you, with a salutation of love in Christ Jesus our Holy Head.

We feel bound to commemorate the continued goodness of Him, whose tender mercies are over all his works, and who has said "My strength is made perfect in weakness;" for although trials have been meted out to us we may thankfully acknowledge that in a good degree strength has been afforded equal to the day.

This meeting has been considerably larger than last year; the important concerns of the church have been transacted in much harmony; and we are encouraged to believe that as we are favoured to keep low and humble before the Lord, we shall witness the verification of that ancient promise, "I will take you one of a city and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion; and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."—

We bid you affectionately farewell, and are your friends.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the meeting aforesaid, by

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 5th. of the sixth month to the 10th. of the same inclusive, 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in New York.

Dear Friends,

Although the Epistle which we addressed to your last Yearly Meeting has been returned; we feel a renewed engagement to salute you in the love of the Gospel — believing there are those preserved among you, who can receive our salutation, and to whom the cause and principles of Truth, which we have in sincerity endeavoured to maintain, continue to be precious.

These have been brought near to us at this time in the fellowship of suffering, on account of the many departures from "the law and the testimony" which are apparent within the borders of our religious Society. May the watchmen on the walls of Zion be faithful at their posts; and so effectually sound an alarm that through the efficacy of the Lord's power the wanderers may return, and be gathered into the fold of rest and peace.

May we all, Dear Friends, be more and more engaged to gather to that Divine Power which raised us up to be a people, and abiding under it we shall be strengthened to maintain those precious testimonies which have been given us to bear.

Thus being baptized by one spirit into one body — speaking the same language, walking by the same rule and minding the same thing we should know the unity which stands in Christ, to increase and prevail. The occasion of stumbling would be taken away and the name of the Lord would be magnified amongst us.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting
aforesaid, by
Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournments, from the 15th. of the sixth month to the 19th. of the same inclusive, 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends, to be held in
Baltimore.

Dear Friends,

Having been permitted once more to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, and comforted together in the transaction of the weighty concerns which have engaged our attention, our dear absent brethren have been brought near to our best feelings, and we are concerned again to salute you in a measure of that love which is unbounded, desiring that through adorable mercy we may be respectively favoured with a right sense of our situation and also of the state of things in the Society at large.

Inasmuch as serious and alarming dissentions exist, arising from the introduction and promulgation of principles and doctrines at variance with those of our forefathers in the Truth who laboured and suffered for the support and establishment of its precious and unchangeable principles even unto death; we affectionately and earnestly entreat you to search the camp as with a lighted candle, that whatsoever shall be discovered which is not of the Lord although comparable to a right hand, or a right eye may be cast out, that the Name of the Lord alone may be exalted, and His Truth again be brought into dominion, and reign triumphantly over all.

With the salutation of love we are your friends & brethren.

Signed by direction & on behalf, of the meeting aforesaid,

by Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends in New England, held in Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 14th of the sixth month to the 19th of the same inclusive, 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in North Carolina.

Dear Friends,

Being permitted again to meet in our annual assembly, we have had renewed cause to remember the precious promise of our Divine Master, "Where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." And although we are not without our trials, we have had, through the several sittings of this meeting, the consoling evidence that the wing of ancient goodness was spread over us, and that we are still owned as a people, by him "who is Head over all things to his church". — We are however sensible that there is no safe abiding place, except on the watch: "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch".—

The great responsibility resting upon us as a people calls for a deep indwelling in humility and abasedness of self, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand." And while under deep exercise and concern that the precious testimonies given us to bear may be faithfully maintained, our distant brethren have been livingly brought to our view, "remembering those who are in bonds, as bound with them."— And we have desired that you with us, "may know an establishment on that foundation which is immutable, and against which the gates of hell can never prevail." With the salutation of love we are your friends.

Signed on behalf & by direction of the meeting aforesaid, by

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held in Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 15th of the sixth month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1846.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in Ohio.

Dear Friends,

Having been favoured again to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, our hearts have been turned towards our dear absent brethren with living desires for their preservation in the unchangable Truth and for their establishment on the alone sure Foundation, "Christ Jesus the Rock of Ages."

Although we have at this time received no communication from you, yet we have not on that account felt excused from addressing you, believing that a reciprocal expression of feeling and concern for each other in this way has a tendency to strengthen and encourage those who are seeking the way to Zion with their faces thitherwards. —

The present is indeed a momentous period of our existance as a people and we have been brought renewedly to feel the weight of responsibility which rests upon us all to maintain unimpaired those precious testimonies which were committed to our worthy Predecessors and which having been faithfully upheld by them through evil report and good report — amid deep sufferings and sore conflicts — and also by their faithful successors, are now transmitted as an invaluable legacy to us. It is a day wherein the enemy of all good has been suffered to come in as a flood; and, in consequence, as we apprehend of the unfaithfulness so prevalent among us, to draw away many from the faith, both on the right hand and on the left. And thus the faithful followers of the Lamb continue to feel the force of that saying, "to you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for his sake."

In a view of the present state of the church and of the world, we have felt a renewed concern that all those who are making a profession of the Truth as ever held by Friends may retire inward and dwell near the alone source and fountain of Divine Light & Life — that they may be weaned from a dependance upon man whose breath is in his nostrils, and increasingly place their dependance upon Him in whom is everlasting strength, and who has promised that for the "sighing of the poor and the crying of the needy He will arise."

In an especial manner have we been introduced into near sympathy with a tribulated remnant in your land who are sorrowing on their way for the desolation of Zion — whose condition is comparable to that of the Prophet when he was required to eat the "Roll" written within and without with mourning, lamentation and woe". With these, to whom the Truth as held and promulgated by our worthy predecessors, is dearer than any earthly treasure, have we travelled in spirit and in the fellowship of suffering desiring that their faith may not fail in this day of treading down and perplexity. And to such, wherever their lot may be cast, the language of the Apostle is strikingly applicable, "Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God, resteth upon you. On their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. — Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls unto Him as unto a faithful Creator".

Our meeting has been considerably larger than that of last year, and in transacting the various concerns that have come before it, harmony and brotherly condescension have prevailed: But above all we have at times been favoured to experience the wing of ancient goodness to be spread over us, and have been brought experimentally to acknowledge that "the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear heavy that it cannot hear." — With the salutation of love we are your friends.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the meeting
aforesaid, by
Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From Our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island on adjournments, from the 13th of the sixth month, to the 19th of the same inclusive, 1846.

To the Next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Indiana.

Dear Friends,

The primitive followers of our Lord Jesus Christ were in the frequent practice of addressing each other by epistolary communications — and when it pleased the great Head of the Church to gather our predecessors in the Truth from outward and ceremonial observances, and to raise them up a people to His praise; they were often engaged to avail themselves of this important aid to that communion and fellowship which is the high privilege of those who believe and walk in the Light.

Under a measure, as we trust, of the same authority we feel our minds drawn towards you, while gathered in our annual assembly; in which we have been favoured livingly to experience, that the true Church, with its Ministry and Apostleship stands not in a mere name or profession — but as was well expressed in that eminent servant of the Lord, William Penn — "the power of God, the Gospel is the authority of all our men's and women's meetings — that every heir of that power, is an heir of that authority, and so becomes of right a member of those meetings, and a partaker of the heavenly fellowship, and order in which they stand." — On this ground and foundation did our worthy forefathers frame the excellent system of Church Discipline which they have bequeathed to us; and it is only while administered in the same Divine power and authority that it will answer the ends of its institution, and promote the honour of our Holy Head. That Friends everywhere may dwell under the sense hereof, and be preserved from a formal observance of its requirements, is our earnest and sincere desire. With the salutation of love we are your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting
aforesaid by
Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 13th of the sixth month, to the 17th of the same inclusive 1817.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends
to be held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends.

Being again favoured to meet in our annual assembly, you have been feelingly brought to our remembrance; and living desires have been raised, that you with us may be enabled to press forward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Notwithstanding the trials and discouragements of the present day may the faithful among you continue stedfast upon the immoveable Rock which hath hitherto preserved a remnant amidst all the storms and tempests that have been permitted to assail them. These are not insensible of the endeavours that are making to lay waste our godly heritage — to modify and change the established principles, doctrines and testimonies of truth which through our worthy predecessors have been transmitted to us in their purity: for they know that the enemy of all righteousness is not only seeking whom he may devour; but that under his transformed appearance as an angel of light he is also seeking to deceive and betray the unwary into by ways and crooked paths; leading from the way of Life and Salvation. And we feel a fervent solicitude that none of his stratagems may prevail, but that we with you may be enabled to stand fast in that liberty which is of the Truth; and that judgment may be laid to the line and righteousness to the plummet firmly believing that as watchfulness is maintained and the faith and patience of the Saints is kept, the Lord will continue to direct and preserve the true burden bearers, and that in his own time he will give them the valley of Achor for a door of hope – speaking comfortably unto them and turning again their captivity as the streams in the South.

Thus keeping to the gift and power of God in ourselves, we shall know it to be raised into dominion, so as to bind together in one all the tribes of Israel, and to raise a song of praise on the banks of deliverance from the power of the destroyer.

In a measure of Gospel love we conclude and remain your Friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting
by Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

P. S. We may inform you that in view of the present condition of our Religious Society, a weighty concern arose in the early part of this meeting to address an Epistle to the sincere and honest hearted making profession with Friends wherever situated, which having been prepared and unitedly adopted we herewith forward a copy thereof to you.

Signed as aforesaid,
Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 13th. of the 6th. month, to the 18th. of the same inclusive, 1847.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends
to be held in Ohio.

Dear Friends,

Altho we have not been favoured with the usual Epistle from you at this time, many amongst us have we believe felt their minds drawn towards you during the several sittings of this our Annual Assembly, and fervent desires have been raised in the hearts of these for your preservation and establishment in the ever blessed Truth: while a near feeling of Christian sympathy, and brotherly love has been witnessed, flowing towards a tried and afflicted, but we trust not forsaken remnant in your land.

We desire to strengthen and encourage these to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, looking only unto Him who is the author and finisher thereof, "who, for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Many and various are the stratagems of the Enemy in this our day, by which he is endeavouring to turn aside the feet of the unwary from the true and living way, and to lead them off from their dependance upon, and allegiance to, the great Head of the Church — from the teaching of Christ within, to the teaching and the preaching of men without; whereby the feet of many have been made to slip, and they have forsaken the straight gate and the narrow way that leadeth unto life, and have turned aside into the broad gate and the wide way that leadeth unto destruction. Oh that such as these may be brought to see the evil of their ways, that they may be brought back once more into the fold of Christ the true Shepherd — that the wicked may be induced to forsake his ways and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and instead of wandering about upon the barren mountains, and the desolate hills of an empty profession, that they may turn again unto the Lord who will have mercy, and unto our God who will abundantly pardon, and through the effectual operations of the Holy Spirit upon their hearts, again become "fruitful in the field of offering, and joyful in the house of prayer."

There is no duty more incumbent upon the faithful Soldier of the Cross, than that of continued watchfulness, even unto prayer, as saith our blessed Lord "what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" — And again — "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation" — Thus only shall we be enabled to guard against the advances of the enemy from without, and to resist the wily workings of the wicked One in our own hearts, and in the end to become more than conquerors ~~through~~ through Him who hath loved us, and laid down His life for us. It is only as our dependence is placed wholly upon Him, the great Captain of our souls salvation, and as we look unto Him alone for guidance and direction that we can do any thing for the honour of Truth, or for the right advancement of his Kingdom upon the Earth. And we have been made renewedly to feel at this time, the force of that saying of the Psalmist, "except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

Our meeting though small, we believe has been larger than last year, and we humbly trust a living remnant has been gathered, and although these have had to mourn for the many desolations that are apparent within our borders — the breaches that have been made in the walls of our Zion — and the encroachments which have been permitted upon the Lords heritage: nevertheless we believe we have at times been favoured with the overshadowing wing of Divine Goodness, and as our hearts have been turned unto Him who is the alone leader of his people, we have experimentally felt that His Arm has been round about us for our preservation, and under the cementing influence of his love, our spirits have been tendered before him, and we have been made renewedly to joy in the Lord and rejoice in the God of our salvation.

In conclusion, dear friends, we are concerned to address you in the fervent language of the Apostle to the Saints at Ephesus, "Finally, Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. — Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with Truth; and having on the Breastplate of Righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. — Above all, take the Shield of Faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, and take the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

With the salutation of love we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting
by Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

P. S. We may inform you that in view of the present condition of our religious Society, a weighty concern arose in the early part of this meeting to address an Epistle to the sincere and honest hearted making profession with Friends wherever situated, which having been prepared and unitedly adopted, we herewith forward a copy thereof to you.

Signed as aforesaid
Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 11th. of the 6th. month, to the 15th. of the same inclusive, 1847.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ohio, to be held at Mount Pleasant.

Dear Friends,

In a measure, we trust, of that love which breathes "peace on earth and good will to men" we have felt our minds drawn towards you at this time; and though we have not been favored with a salutation of brotherly regard and Christian fellowship from you, we feel constrained yet once more to address you by way of an Epistle, earnestly desiring that you as well as ourselves may be more and more settled and established in the ever-blessed Truth, witnessing a growth in grace, and in the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have had cause to believe that comparatively not a few of those present have been rightly gathered and exercised, and we have yet it brings a consoling evidence that we have been owned, however unworthy, by Israel's unslumbering Shepherd; and that the wing of ancient Goodness has been extended over us for our preservation to the tendering of many hearts.

And while our spirits have been feelingly turned towards you, our brethren, we have been renewedly confirmed in the belief that there is a living remnant still preserved in your midst, who are mourning on their way because of the dessolations that have been made in our Zion; and we have felt an earnest solicitude that these, with ourselves, may be favoured to abide in the everlasting patience, and to endure even unto the end whatsoever trials and afflictions may be permitted to come upon us for our good by the All Wise Head of the Church, remembering the declaration of one who had himself endured hardness as a good soldier "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth".

The path of the true disciple, has ever been a tried and tribulated one, and it is only as our spiritual eye is kept single to the great Captain of our Salvation, and our minds are centred and grounded in a living Faith in him, that we can make straight steps to our feet, and be enabled to journey forward in that Highway of Holiness which is cast up for the ransomed and the redeemed of the Lord to walk in, although we may be surrounded as it were by perils on every hand, yet as our trust and confidence is in the Lord alone, and as a willingness is wrought to endure the turnings and overturnings of His holy hand upon us, He will in his own time open a way for our deliverance; and we shall have thankfully to acknowledge from a degree of living experience that "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his."

We have felt an earnest and sincere desire at this time, both for ourselves and for our dear children in [illegible] [illegible] wherever situated that we may hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering remaining steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in good works, that in all lowliness of spirit and true humility we may endeavour to seek unto the Lord alone for counsel and direction, in this day of treading down and breaking in pieces, wherein many, we fear who have once "tasted the good word of Life and the powers of the world to come, have forsaken Him the fountain of living waters, and have hewn them out cisterns broken cisterns, that can hold no water — A day in which the enemy of all good is busy with his snares and baits, seeking to ensnare the unwary, transforming himself at times into the appearance of an Angel of Light, in order if it were possible that he might deceive even the very Elect.

Beware, O ye tried and tribulated ones; — beware of his subtle devices. Turn neither to the right hand nor to the left, whatever may be the allurements with which he would draw you from the path of duty, and as you trust in the Lord, who alone is able to keep and preserve you He will lead you on in the right way, for He hath promised that "the meek will he guide in judgment, and the meek will he teach His way.

Oh, that none may place their dependance upon an arm of flesh for it will assuredly fail them in the hour of their greatest need; but may your trust and confidence be in that Divine Arm of power which hath ever been underneath to support all those who have leaned wholly upon it that so you may be sustained in the hour of temptation, and in the end be enabled individually to say with the Apostle, "I have fought a good fight — I have finished my course — I have kept the faith — henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of Righteousness which the Lord, the Righteous Judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing." With the salutation of love we remain your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting by

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held in Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 10th. of the sixth month, to the 15th. of the same inclusive, 1849.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held
in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

We feel an engagement to acknowledge that in this our Annual Assembly we have received an acceptable minute of your last Yearly Meeting, adopting a Report to the meeting for Sufferings, of a Committee appointed to investigate the facts and causes of the division which has taken place within our borders, including a salutation of unfeigned regard, and the expression of a sincere desire that all parties may be brought into true fellowship on the only sure foundation.

The important subject thus spread before us, has claimed our weighty consideration and a minute was adopted by this meeting in relation thereto, and directed to be forwarded to you herewith. The Document received from your Yearly Meeting has been directed to be transcribed, and the transcript forwarded with a copy of that minute to Ohio Yearly Meeting. We have also referred the same to our meeting for sufferings for publication, at such time as may to them appear proper.

With the salutation of love, we conclude and remain your friends

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting
by Thomas B. Gould, Clerk to the
Meeting this year. . . .

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 11th. of the 6th. month, to the 15th. of the same inclusive, 1849.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ohio,
to be held at Mount Pleasant.

Dear Friends,

Having been again permitted to meet in the capacity of a yearly meeting, we have been mercifully favoured to transact the weighty concerns that have claimed our attention in unity and harmony.

We have received from our dear friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, the report of their Meeting for Sufferings, relative to the "facts and causes" which have produced the late division within our borders, which was read and full unity expressed therewith; and it has been referred to our meeting for Sufferings for publication at such time as may in their judgment appear best, and under an apprehension that such a step was called for on our part for the preservation of Friends of your land, as well as for the advancement of the cause of Truth, we have directed it to be transcribed and forwarded to you, together with a copy of a minute adopted by this meeting in relation to the subject; and we commend its contents to your serious and deliberate consideration.

We have also read and adopted an appeal for the ancient doctrines of our religious Society, issued by the same Yearly Meeting.

With brotherly love we salute you desiring your welfare and preservation in the ever blessed Truth, and are your friends.

Signed, by direction and on behalf of the meeting
by Thomas B. Gould, Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 12th of the 6th month to the 16th of the same inclusive 1853

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends of New York

Dear Friends

Your Epistle of last month was duly received and read in this meeting, and was acceptable to us, and we feel glad to be informed of the merciful favour of the overshadowing of the Divine presence among you, on your coming together in order to consider the very important subject of sustaining a Yearly Meeting on the ancient ground of Friends, and that through the many trials and sore discouragements that have fallen to your lot, we are thankful, that you have been supported and enabled through the Lords own merciful interposition, to reorganize & establish a Yearly Meeting for the mutual help one of another, and for the faithful upholding of our doctrines & discipline, in the true spirit of christian integrity in which our forefathers walked and supported their testimonies to the honour of his great and Holy Name.

And, dear Friends whilst both you and we rejoice that we have been favoured, through the Lords tender mercies, to escape the [illegible] of the enemy [illegible], & the departing of many of great numbers in our society, there seems to be a necessity to be prepared to commiserate their condition, and to walk with great circumspection and purity of life, ~~before~~ in the fear of the Lord, before them, and before all ~~them~~ men, so that our whole life, as well as our testimony may evince to the world, whose side we are on, and whose servants we are, even his who called our worthy predecessors to holiness and to greater purity and endued them with greater clearness in the Christian doctrines than any other professors were favoured with. And whilst we are thus commemorating the favours of our Heavenly Father unto them and unto us, let us give due diligence to our calling and election, continually interceding with God that he may be pleased through Christ Jesus our Lord, to keep us from falling or in any wise to swerve from holding fast the blessed hope of our calling, so that we may be enabled to stand fast in the Lord, in this day of Zions distress, amidst the tearing down of ~~dear~~ Holy testimonies, and the despising of her dignified doctrines. With the salutation of love we are your friends & brethren.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting. by Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments, from the 11th of 6th mo to the 14th of the same inclusive 1754 To the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New Yorke

Being again permitted to assemble together for the transaction of the weighty affairs of the Church, our minds have been humbled under a renewed sense of our entire inability, of ourselves, to do any thing for the promotion of that Cause, which is dignified with immutability, and crowned with eternal life

Your acceptable Epistle was duly received, and read amongst us to our satisfaction and comfort. We salute you in the love of the Gospel, rejoicing in hope of the glory of God, in some measure on your behalf, and by reason of your faithfulness towards him, believing that the day has come in which all those who stand faithful to his precious Cause and testimony, must come to a willingness to be any thing or nothing as it may please him. That self must be reduced and slain and that as we are made willing to be of no reputation, he will, in his own good time, arise for our help although Abraham may seem to be ignorant of us, and such as are called by the name of Israel acknowledge us not. Therefore although an host should encamp against you, yet may you not fear. Although war should rise against you in this may you be confident, saying, let others do as they may, one thing have we desired of the Lord - that will we seek after, that we may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. And beloved Friends, as this becomes our individual and united engagement, there is no reason to doubt that we shall receive the needful supplies of wisdom and strength for the performance of every good word & work — seeing that in him who remains to be Head over all things to his Church and people, are hidden all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge. — It is equally and unchangeably true that he is still mercifully disposed to reveal the mysteries of his heavenly Kingdom unto babes, and not only so, but out of the mouths of such as these to ordain his strength, and to perfect his praise. Therefore however excellent and comely the form of godliness may be, and is, while it continues to be accompanied with the Power and the Life, in which it was originally set up and established, yet it is not in the oldness of the letter that any can find acceptance with the Lord. And we believe that the time has come, in which every thing that can be shaken, will be shaken and removed out of the way, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. We have also the consoling assurance that the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them are his

We remain your friends & brethren

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk to the meeting this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 10th of the 6th mo. to the 15th of the same inclusive 1855 to the next Yearly Meeting of Friends for New York to be held at Poplar Ridge

Dear Friends, The reception and reading in this our annual solemnity of the brotherly Epistle addressed to us by your last Yearly Meeting has had a tendency to bring you afresh to our remembrance.

We have been led renewedly to consider the ground of our union, wherein, or in whom our fellowship stands, and the nature and character of that Epistolary intercourse which has been mercifully re-opened and as we trust firmly established between us upon its ancient foundation.

We can with reverence and thankfulness acknowledge that he who was the foundation of the Prophets and Apostles, continues to be mercifully near, and exceedingly precious unto us. For his sake we, as well as yourselves have been made willing to be separated from those who sometime walked in outward fellowship in religious profession with us, but who have gone out from us respectively, because they were not of us, having first, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, been betrayed and led isting from the simplicity of the truth as it is in Jesus, and departed from the purity and oneness of the true faith and doctrines of Christ, and so lost the power of his Gospel which remains to be the power of God unto salvation to all those who believe in and obey it.

How precious, how very precious is the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and perfectness, [illegible] in Christ the Seed and Word of God which liveth and abideth forever, and is unchangeable in itself and in man, for it is one in all tho' all men have not believed in it, been born of it, or come to inherit the promises, receive the blessings or witness the consolations which are contained in it, and do assuredly allow a union therewith and an abidance therein.

But many who have tasted of the good word of God and have felt the power of an endless life, even that life which was with the Father and has been manifested unto us, have not continued faithful unto death; have not kept the faith, nor been grounded ~~and~~ settled and established therein, so as not to have come to make shipwreck of faith, and a good conscience also, and to account the blood which is the life of the new covenant an unholy thing.

Now in this Yearly Meeting, we have felt a renewed concern and engagement on ourselves and for you dear brethren, that we to them received Christ Jesus, and so to him be enabled to walk in him unto all well pleasing, for he is the Way, and the Truth and the life and no man cometh unto the Father but by him. And they that love him must keep his commandments and obey his voice, or they cannot abide in his love and Life, neither will he come unto them and make his abode with them

Dear Friends may we ever remember that he that hath the Son that hath the Seed and Word of God abiding in him, hath life, and he that hath not the Son, hath not Life. ~~we~~

In the motion of this life the life of God in the soul this divine inward and spiritual life — we may be made instrumental of good to each other in divers ways and on a variety of occasions, and so become one another's helpers and joy in the Lord, and never without it. Therefore may we all be concerned to know not only an entrance into this blessed experience, but also an abidance therein — watching thereunto with all perseverance that so we may witness a growth in grace, and in the divine experience and saving knowledge of the Truth. So shall we be made exceeding joyful in all our tribulations, [illegible] in this inward house of prayer and fruitful in the field of offering. The waste places in our Zion would be soon made [illegible] the breaches in her walls would be healed, and judges would be restored and as at the first and counsellors as at the beginning, by him who is a strength in weakness, riches in poverty, and a present helper in the needful time.

With the salutation of love unfeigned we are your friends and brethren —

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting by

Peter Mitchell
Clerk this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends in New England held at Newport in Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15th of the 6 mo~~th~~ to the 19th of the same inclusive 1856

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held at Nottingham

After the long interruption in our Correspondence with your Yearly Meeting which has taken place, to the sorrow of many who could truly sympathize with each other in this privation, as well as in the sufferings which have been meted out to such, both with you and us as have been concerned for the preservation of the Church on its original foundation of Truth, we rejoice that a way has again been opened for a renewal of our intercourse with you. And in that love which reaches over sea and land, we desire to salute you at this time as brethren in the fellowship of the everlasting Gospel, even that Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation, to all those that have true and saving faith in Christ the blessed and eternal Rock of Ages

The reading of your salutary epistle has been a source of solid comfort & satisfaction to us, affording us a renewed evidence, "that as the mountains are round about Jerusalem" so the Lord Continues to be round about his people, their Strong tower and Rock of defence.

Many are the trials and deep the baptisms, which the rightly exercised are permitted to endure in this day of deep wavering, and revolt from those pure principles of Truth, which were so dear to our worthy predecessors in religious profession, and which are nothing ~~the~~ less than "Primitive Christianity revived", adapted to the condition of mankind not in one particular age only, but in every age & generation of the world. But it is a great source of Consolation in these troublous times that the everlasting fountain of excellency and goodness remains undiminished and unimpaired. Man may be permitted to lord it over the heritage and as it were to cast the faithful into prison for a season, but he cannot hinder the access of such to this blessed Fountain, nor shut them out from the presence of the Holy One. - As we are favoured and enabled to abide near unto Him no devices of the great enemy of souls, whether he appears as a roaring lion or an angel of light can prevail against us. And although those, who through holy help are endeavouring to build the walls of Zion may be but as "one of a city, and two of a family" yet the promise of our gracious Lord & Master, still remains to be true "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Our annual assembly has been well attended and we have been favoured at times with the overshadowing wing of ancient goodness, enabling us to transact the weighty affairs of the Church in true harmony and condescension, and encouraging us to believe that though we are deeply tried, we are not forsaken.

We have at this time the very acceptable company of several Friends in the ministry & others from different Yearly Meetings, whose solid deportment and gospel labours have been truly edifying and comforting to us.

During the past year & within a few preceding years it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove from works to rewards, several of our number who were as pillars in the Militant Church, in whose removal we feel greatly stripped; yet having a precious evidence afforded us, that our loss is their everlasting gain, we sorrow not as those without hope; but do reverently believe that their purified spirits have been gathered in mercy from the trials of time, to the unmixed and unfading joys of an heavenly inheritance.

With the salutation of love we are your friends & brethren

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting by

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this Year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport Rhode Island, by adjournment from the 13th of the 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1856

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New York next to be held at Poplar Ridge

Dear Friends

Assembled once more for the purpose of transacting the weighty affairs of the Church, although beset with weaknesses and discouragements, on the right hand and on the left, yet a desire has been felt to prevail, that increased faithfulness and dedication may be witnessed and continue to mark our footsteps in the rugged pathway of life — that a single eye may be kept to the monitions of Truth on the mind, and when its pointings are clearly discovered, that we may give diligent heed thereunto: being renewedly persuaded that it is only by continued obedience to the divine requirements thus manifested to us, that we shall experience a growth in grace and preservation from the evils that are in the world, and from the various snares and stratagems of the enemy, who is not less intent now than in any former age, on drawing us away from the precious Truth as it is in Jesus, — not always in his character as a roaring Lion, but more often in his transformation into the appearance of an Angel of Light, wherein he would persuade us that in the career of human progress and in the further developements of science, or from some newly discovered means of Communication between remaining and departed spirits, there has been found no easier way to the Kingdom of everlasting rest and peace than the way of the cross.

In these and similar delusions, which have appeared, disappeared, ~~disappeared~~, and reappeared in various forms in different ages of the world, the faithful and devoted follower of a crucified Lord discovers the cunning devices and crafty machinations of the adversary of all good and realizes the necessity of continued watchfulness unto prayer for preservation from his subtle and unwearied assaults, and for ability to make war against him in righteousness, to put on strength in the name of the Lord, and by his holy help to press forward throug the crowd of opposition, towards the mark ~~the~~ ~~mark~~ for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord; endeavouring in all our intercourse with our fellow men and especially among ourselves, as brethren of the same household of faith, to fulfil the divine law of love, which still continues to be a distinguishing characteristic of the Christian dispensation. The test of discipleship remains the same as when our Lord inculcated the precept. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one unto another."

When this love is wanting the ~~the~~ light of life burns but dimly, and if feelings of hardness are suffered to continue, it will finally become extinguished, and the poor traveller be left to grope his way in darkness, not knowing wither he goes, in accordance with the testimony of the Apostle "He that saith ~~that~~ he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness" while "he that loveth his brother is in the light and there is none occasion of stumbling in him". And again, "if we walk in the light as he is in the light we "have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus "Christ cleanseth us from all sins".

Our minds have been renewedly impressed with a sense of the great importance, at this time of excitement and commotion not only in the Church but in civil society; of keeping a single eye to the Captain of our salvation, for there alone may we look for safety amid the storms and tempests that may be permitted to assail us, either from within or without, not relying on an arm of flesh but trusting in the name of the Lord which remains to be "a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe".

Our hearts have been made sorrowful, and our hands to hang down in weakness from a sense of the loss we have sustained in the recent removal from works to rewards of some who have been as valiants in the Lords army — who have stood in the fore-front of the battle during the very trials through which the Church has been called to pass, but who were preserved in the midst of the furnace, and brought forth without the smell of fire upon their garments, who "fought the good fight and kept the faith", and in the solemn conclusion were prepared "to give up their accounts with joy and not with grief" — to rejoice in view of a-

[illegible] [illegible] to have and Exercise in the Church Militant, and in the assurance that an entrance would be abundantly administered to them into the Everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And desires have been raised unto him who sustained those faithful worthies, through the various trials of their day, that he would not forsake us, nor leave us to support the Cause so dear to them; but that he will be pleased to send "Help from the Sanctuary, and Strength out of Zion" that we may be animated by the example of their holy lives and triumphant deaths, to endeavour to follow them as they followed Christ.

Your acceptable Epistle of the 5th month last has been received and read at this time to our edification and comfort, affording renewed evidence that an Epistolary interchange of feeling and sentiment as it is carried on under the influence of the Head of the Church tends to unite us more closely to him, and one unto another to our mutual strength and advancement in the one blessed Truth

In the Conclusion we are renewedly strengthened in the belief that the Lord has not forsaken his Church and people — that notwithstanding the overwhelming scourge which has been permitted to lay waste a large proportion of the heritage, a remnant will be spared to uphold those pure principles of truth for which our worthy predecessors counted nothing too dear to sacrifice, and which they faithfully maintained through a great fight of

opposition — that it [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
his people, that they should become the [illegible] [illegible]
a couple of Centuries" and that they should continue to
be his Chosen people, among whom to place his name,
and by whom to perpetuate his truth ever in ages,
and generations yet to come.

With the salutation of love we remain your
friends

Signed in behalf and by direction of the meeting by

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends
for New England, held at Newport on Rhode
Island, by adjournment from the 11th of 6th mo
to the 17th of the same inclusive 1857

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends

Having been permitted to meet again
in our annual assembly, we believe we have renewed cause to commemorate the loving kindness of the Great Shepherd of Israel, towards the least of his flock. And although trials of various kinds are still in infinite wisdom permitted to come upon us, yet we do not wish to murmur or repine at any of the dispensations of an unerring Providence, but desire with reverent thank-

fulness of heart to acknowledge that the Lord is good and that his mercies endure forever.

Your acceptable Epistle of 10th month last has been read ~~to our Comfort and satisfaction~~ in our meeting to our edification and Comfort; and we earnestly desire that we may be mutually favoured so to abide in the true and living vine Christ Jesus, as to witness an increase of that life, which alone makes Epistolary intercourse savory and profitable to those who engage in it. As we are thus concerned, we shall experience to our great consolation, that we can confidently rely upon the unchanging promise of him, who never said to the wrestling seed of Jacob 'seek ye my face in vain.' We shall also consider it a precious priviledge to be allowed to wait for a renewal of strength on Him who is the fulness of strength. 'Twas this precious renewal of strength which enabled the righteous of all ages safely to pass through the various trials and probations of their day, and which will also enable us, as we are concerned therefor to endure the conflicts and trials of our day, and to abide in that Holy Tent where no divination nor enchantment can ever prevail against the Israel of God. This was the experience of the Psalmist who was led to exclaim "Lord thou hast become our dwelling-place in all generations" May it be more and more our own experience, even to know the Lord to be our dwelling place, and to cease from any dependence on man, although the best of men, for what is any man however great his past experience may have been, without the Lords spirit & power which has ever led all those who were obedient to it to give all the glory to him to whom it rightly belongs. And as in an outward point of view our natural bodies will not be strengthened or more by seeing others partake of food, neither in an inward sense will our immortal part be nourished or strengthened by knowing that others are feeding on the bread of life unless we partake of the same ourselves. If this be our happy situation we shall witness in ourselves the fulfilment of the promise of the Great Shepherd of Israel. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." In this state we shall have but little regard for the opinion of a world that lieth in wickedness, or desire after its honours, its emoluments or its pleasures, but our life will be hid with Christ in God, and when the trials of time are ended we shall be permitted to enjoy an undisturbed sabbath of eternal rest. With the salutation of love we remain your friends in the bonds of the Everlasting Gospel

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting by

Peter Mitchell
Clerk this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15th of the Sixth month to the 17th of the same inclusive 1857

To New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, next to be held at Poplar Ridge.

Dear Friends, Through the continued mercy of our Heavenly Father we have been permitted again to assemble for the purpose of transacting the affairs of the Church; and while deliberating and acting thereon our minds have been deeply impressed with a sense of the mournful state of things therein, or of that section of it under our name; and we have been led to exclaim "How has the gold become dim, and the most fine gold changed"! What cause for lamentation and mourning on the part of the burden bearers,—even for weeping as between the porch and the Altar, and to cry, saying "Spare thy people O Lord and give not thine heritage to reproach". The trials of our day are not only deep and abiding, but varied and peculiar; and call loudly for deep ~~and abiding~~ searching of hearts, and for a willingness to be found faithful to the requirements of our Holy Head in all things, seeking to know what he calls for at our hands and for ability, faithfully to labor in our allotted stations for the repairing of the sad breaches in the walls of our Zion made by the enemy of all good, through which he has come in as a flood and swept over us as with "the besom of destruction", leaving but a poor feeble remnant who are willing to endeavour to be loyal to his testimonies as revived and promulgated by our worthy predecessors at the rise of our society, and to withstand the wide spread and determined efforts to modify and Change them, so as to make them more Congenial to the popular notions of a sin loving world.

May we then, beloved friends, seriously Consider the unspeakable importance and responsibility of our position, and remember that the Divine blessing is Consequent on our faithfulness; and that without this all our labor will be in vain and we shall not only fail to advance the Cause of Truth, but bring reproach thereon. Then let us endeavour to put on strength in the name of the Lord, and to put our whole trust in him. Many, and emphatic are the promises to those whose trust is fixed here. It is declared that they shall be as mount Zion which Cannot be removed but abideth forever. This holy trust and Confidence has been the refuge and resting place of the righteous in all generations, and it leads to obedience and a holy zeal for the prosperity of the Cause of Truth – to a Calm Continuance in well doing, to the love of God, and to a patient waiting for Christ. It begets a lively hope in the blessed promises of the Gospel, and faith in their fulfilment.

How animating to the weary pilgrim are these promise — He that cometh to me, saith our blessed Lord shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. The water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up to everlasting life. And the Apostle uses this solemn language. "Ye are the temple of the living God"; as God hath said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them". These and many other like blessed promises are realized by the humble faithful followers of a Crucified Lord; and on them with a corresponding experience are founded our views of Spiritual worship, and of a true gospel ministry. The history of the early gathering of our religious society clearly shows that our first Friends were Divinely drawn to meet together to wait upon the Lord to receive that Spiritual nourishment that comes immediately from him, and that they were in an eminent degree made partakers thereof; experiencing him of a truth to be in the midst of them, thus verifying to them his ancient promise in this respect, as also that he would give them a mouth and wisdom which their adversaries could neither gainsay nor resist. We feel that we can countenance no change in, or modification of those testimonies so dear to them, and so rich in fruits of heavenly peace and Divine favour; feeling assured that there is no other way for us to become the receivers of those blessed fruits but to faithfully uphold those inestimable testimonies, even though it be now as it was then,— through suffering and conflict— to renounce the spirit, the customs and vain conversation of the world, and seek to be found walking in that light in which they walked, and which remains to be the life of men.

The love of the world tends directly to diminish our love to God, as declared by the apostle "If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him".

How important then to guard against an eager pursuit of riches "which while some coveted after they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Many and various are the ways in which the naturally corrupt heart of man is led away from purity and holiness by the love of the world which lieth in wickedness. Our testimony to simplicity and plainness not only of speech, and of bodily attire, but in the appearance and furniture of our dwellings, having its origin in the Truth was a subject of deep solicitude to our faithful predecessor, who having renounced the world and its vanities were concerned to bring up their children in the same narrow path of self denial and the daily cross in which they walked and found safety. And this dear friends still remains to be the path of safety and of true peace, even that peace which passeth the understanding of the natural man, but which the world with all that pertains to it cannot give; though an adherence to the maxims and manners thereof often prevents its being received and realized producing leanness in religious experience or an entire absence of it.

We believe that nothing contributes more to our help and strength, in rightly training up our Children than the practice of frequent retirement and reverent waiting upon the Lord with living desires raised unto him for direction and guidance herein. These desires, as they are sincerely Continued will we feel assured, sooner or later be answered to the humbling admiration of such, and to the strengthening of their hands for service in the Cause of Truth. It is by thus seeking for help of him on whom help is laid, and becoming submissive to his requirements that we are best prepared to know our individual line of duty in any attempts publicly or privately to serve our fellow men and to promote the Cause of Truth and righteousness in the earth.

Your acceptable epistle of 5th month last has been read at this time to our edification and Comfort and has afforded renewed evidence of the usefulness of this ancient practice of Epistolary correspondence, and ~~is~~ our desire is that it may be Continued as it was commenced, by a renewed dependence on Divine help for direction and qualification herein, on each successive occasion; for it is only as it is thus carried on that it will Contribute to our strength, and to the advancement of the cause of Truth.

Although our meeting is small, and we have come together under feelings of great weakness and discouragement, yet we have been favoured to transact the business that has Claimed our attention, in much harmony and brotherly condescension and at times have had reverently to acknowledge the fresh extendings of our Heavenly Fathers love, Contriting our hearts and affording renewed evidence that he is still mindful of his people, and that if they are loyal to him, he will yet arise for the remnant of Zion and will raise up in her midst "Judges as at the first and Counsellors as at the beginning," Causing the light to go forth with brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burneth"

With the salutation of unfeigned love we are your friends and brethren

Signed by direction & on behalf of the meeting aforesaid by

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk to the Meeting
this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 13th of 6th mo to the 16th of the same inclusive 1758.

To Salem Quarterly Meeting of Friends in Iowa

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle has been received and read by us to our edification and comfort, and feelings of near ~~unity~~ sympathy and unity with you in your tried position have pervaded our minds, with desire for your continued preservation and establishment in the unchangeable Truth; and that all Friends every where, who, in this day of treading down and sore devastation within our borders, may have been enabled to make a stand against the innovations which threaten to sweep away our ancient landmarks — set up and established under Divine authority — may continue in a right spirit firmly and faithfully to adhere to the Testimonies of Truth, looking for help to Him only who has promised to be the Helper of his people. — To maintain a state of humble dependence upon him, with an openness to receive instruction from him, together with a faithful adherence to manifested duty, is the great attainment, which we ought above all things else to shine over— that this might happily in some good degree be our experience, [illegible] [illegible] we witness an advancement from one degree to another in the Truth, notwithstanding all the discouraging circumstances by which we may be surrounded

Our meetings in this our annual assembly have been attended by about the same number as for several years past, and although we feel ourselves to be but a poor and stripped remnant with no might or strength of our own, yet we thankfully acknowledge that the Lords mercies fail not, but have been renewed unto us from day to day enabling us to transact the business which has come before us in condescension and harmony. Our desire is that we may walk worthy of the many favours we have so bountifully received from His Holy Hand, remembering as one of our ancient worthies has justly remarked that there is no state attainable this side the grave higher than that of watchfulness and prayer.— In this state we shall have no desire to take any honour to ourselves or to bestow it upon others, but shall ascribe all to Him to whom it rightfully belongs, even to the Lord of Life and glory without whom we can do nothing. This has been the experience of the righteous in all generations — but for which [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as withered branches, or they are as useless branches fit only for the fire. May it be our happy experience else; even to abide in the true vine Christ Jesus, and to know him to be unto us as the Shadow of a great Rock in a weary land-

Let us not think that our trials are over and that we can now sit down at ease- unconcerned wether ~~the~~ or not the noble plant of Truth grows in ourselves or in others, but remember that in this state of probation we have a constant struggle to maintain against an unwearied adversary who envies the happiness of those who are endeavouring to serve the Lord;- and that our only safety consists in knowing our foundation to be on that Rock against which the gates of Hell shall never be able to prevail.

With the salutation of ~~Gospel~~ love we are your friends

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting aforesaid by Peleg Mitchell Clerk to the meeting this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 13th of the 6th month to the 16th of the same inclusive 1858

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends

Being again permitted to meet together in our annual assembly, our dear absent brethren have been brought afresh to our remembrance and in an especial manner those of your Yearly Meeting, with the desire that you with us may be favoured to know a faithful abiding in the root of Divine Life, whereby we may experience a growth in grace and in the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. It was only as our forefathers in the Truth took heed to this living principle that they were enabled to endure with meekness and patience the varied trials of their day, including the bitter revilings and cruel persecution of their implacable enemies; and it is only as we are favored to live under the same principle, and to dwell under the same spiritual anointing that we shall be enabled to work out our souls Salvation and to conquer our spiritual enemies, for then shall we be made "more than conquerors through Him who loveth us"

Although you may often feel cast down under a sense of your stripped~~ness~~ and peeled condition, we feel like extending a word of encouragement and exhortation that you give not back in the day of battle, but rather seek for a renewal of strength, and to be clothed with the spiritual armor even with the armor of righteousness whereby you may be enabled to put to flight the armies of the aliens.

On taking a view ~~of~~ at this time of the condition of our once favoured and still beloved tho' greatly degenerated and shattered society, we have been brought in some degree as we trust to commiserate the condition of the prophet when he was compelled to "eat the roll written within and without with lamentation mourning & woe"; but in these seasons of dejection and discouragement how consoling to remember & feel the evidence that the foundation still "standeth sure," and that none are excluded from building thereon— that it ever has been and remains to be the gracious priviledge of the faithful followers of a Crucified Lord to flee unto him in every season of danger and distress, and to find him to be a refuge from the storm, and a hiding place from the tempest. We therefore of the [illegible] encouragement to [illegible] beloved brethren [illegible] continue to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, keeping in view the end thereof even the salvation of our souls.

And dear friends while we may often find it our place "to weep as between the porch and the Altar and to cry saying spare thy people, O Lord and give not thine heritage to reproach," May we realize that it is only as we are willing to perform the required labor that we can expect the blessing — that it is ~~by~~ but by "patient continuance in well doing that we availingly seek for glory, honor, immortality and eternal life" — that lukewarmness and indifference are no less offensive in the divine sight now, than in the days of the ancient Churches and we would affectionately call on all our dear friends to examine their own standing and scrutinize all their motives for action or non action, that so it may be said of us as of a tried people formerly "For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart" — then may we not confidingly trust that in his own good time the Lord would arise for our help, that the breaches in the walls of our Zion would be again repaired and "Jerusalem become a quiet habitation"

Your acceptable Epistle of the 10th month last has been read among us at this time, the savor of which was felt to be as life unto life.

Our meeting tho' small has been at times favoured with the sensible overshadowings of heavenly good evincing that the Shepherd of Israel is still mindful of us, poor and unworthy as we are. May it become our united concern to render unto him that tribute of gratitude and love which is ever due to his great and holy name, that so we may experience Him to be round about us to build us up in the most holy faith, and in the end to "give us an inheritance among them that are sanctified".

With the salutation of love we are your friends and brethren

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting ~~by~~ aforesaid by

Polly Mitchell Clerk
to the meeting this year

To, New York Yearly Meeting of Friends next
to be held at Poplar Ridge

Dear Friends,

We feel drawn again to address you as brethren of the same household of faith, and to assure you that we earnestly desire your preservation, establishment and growth in the ever blessed Truth. Assembled once more in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, we feel gratefully to acknowledge the evidences vouchsafed that the Wing of Ancient Goodness has been from time to time spread over us under a sense of which our hearts have been contrited and we have been made to realize our entire inability of ourselves to do any thing that shall redound to the honor of Truth or to the advancement of his precious Cause who hath declared "without me ye can do nothing." And we have felt an increasing exercise at this time that not only in the weighty and important Concern of addressing these salutations of love, in the blessed fellowship of the Gospel to our distant brethren, but in the general transaction of the affairs of the Church, our dependence may be wholly on him who putteth forth and goeth before his own people; for it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps, and it is only as we are thus engaged to seek for Divine assistance, that we shall be enabled to fill up our ranks in righteousness and so to move forward in the line of divine appointment as to bring honor to His great name, to whom all the honor and glory is alone due

And beloved friends, we have fervently desired both for ourselves and for you, that we may keep low, and that nothing tending to self exaltation may be suffered to take root amongst us. That we may be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. That none amongst us may "think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" That nothing may be done through strife or vain glorying but in humility and godly fear, that so we may come into that state in which each shall think others better than himself, and be brought fully to appreciate each others services in the Lord – be mutual helpers one of another – laboring to build one another up in the most holy faith, even that faith which works by love to the purifying of the heart and which will bring down in us every thing which the Lord's spirit hath a controversy with. So shall we witness an establishment in the Truth and become more and more united together in the bonds of Christian fellowship and peace, and our lights be made to shine before men that others seeing our good works may come to glorify our Father who is in heaven.

Your acceptable epistle of the 5 mo last was received & read amongst us to our edification and

Comfort. We feel that we are engaged in our Cause, a Cause which is dignified with immortality and crowned with Eternal Life. And although the Seed lies low, and perils still surround us- perils amongst false brethren, and the snares of the Enemy which are secretly laid for our feet yet we are at this time renewedly strengthened in the belief that as we Continue faithful unto Him who hath Called us, we shall be made Conquerors, and more than Conquerors through him, and that he will never leave nor forsake those who put their whole trust and Confidence in him.

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and forever.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 13th of the ultimo to the 16th of the same inclusive 1858 by Peleg Mitchell Clerk to the meeting this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport in Rhode Island in adjournments from the 12th of 6th mo XXV9 to the 15th of the same inclusive 1859

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends! We have been permitted again to assemble for the transaction of the weighty affairs which appertain to the prosperity of the Ever blessed Truth, altho under feelings of discouragement in viewing the sad inroads which the enemy of all good working through the busy active spirit of man in his own wisdom, is making, even amongst those who profess to be guided by the unerring spirit of Truth, so that if possible even the very Elect would be deceived thereby. But it remains to be an unchangeable truth that however great may be our natural capacities or attainments, or whatever may have been ~~our natural capacities or attainments~~ our past religious experience unless we are concerned daily to wait for the renewal of our strength upon Him who is the fullness thereof, we shall soon be shorn of our spiritual strength, and our spiritual eyesight will become dim, so that we shall not be able to see the enemy when he approaches, neither shall we have power to resist him after he has come into our midst

This is indeed a day of commotion Happy are they who know that rest which none of these shakings can disturb, whose refuge is under that secret Pavilion where the Lord hides his little ones, and keeps them as it were in the hollow of his hand.

The messengers of the Lord's true witnesses in all ages have been tried in the furnace of affliction, and we cannot expect to escape them if we are found among that number who count nothing too near or too dear to part with for his blessed cause and names sake;

We have been comforted in this meeting by the solid appearance and deportment of divers of our young people. May such both among us and you not be discouraged by the lukewarmness and indifference of some who should have been pioneers and examples to them in the pathway of holiness, but may they be encouraged to look away from man and unto the Rock of Ages under whose shadow they can ~~always~~ alone find protection, shelter and rest

Your acceptable Epistle of last year was received, and was truly strengthening and encouraging to us

With the salutation of Love we are your friends & brethren

Signed by direction & on behalf of the meeting aforesaid, by

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 10th of 6mo 1860 to the 13th of the same inclusive

To Friends of Salem Quarterly Meeting Iowa

Dear Friends— We received your acceptable Epistle and were glad that there were some amongst you, who feel a lively interest Concern for the maintenance of Truths Testimonies, without wavering and without compromise

While we are tenderly Concerned that Friends every where should keep their ranks in righteousness, our minds are particularly drawn out at this time towards some of you, who in an especial manner are Called upon to stand in the breach which the enemy has made. Dear Friends the present is a time of Casting down and almost universal turning back in this once highly favored society.— Satan is we believe sifting us as wheat, and the Lord sees meet to permit him to try us to the uttermost, that it may be made manifest who is willing to stand in singleness of heart and to bear the reproach of the cross. Oh let not discouragements overwhelm your spirits, neither begin to doubt the Almighty power that has brought you thus far — it is to them that hold out to the end that the Crown is given — And when the overflowing scourge is passed by, we believe there will be a gathering again to this remnant of the house of Israel, and some of their brethren shall return from the land of their Captivity whither they have been carried away, and there shall be great rejoicings in Zion

With the salutation of love we are your friends. Signed on behalf & by direction of the meeting aforesaid by

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this year

Copied & forwarded to Eleanor Austin

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 10th of 6mo 1860 to the 13th of the same inclusive

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends —

Dear Friends

In a measure of that love which is the badge of true discipleship, we feel to address you, desiring that you may be strengthened and encouraged to press forward through every difficulty towards the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God, in Christ Jesus. We have felt it to be indeed a day of close proving & treading down, a day in which the plausible stratagems of the enemy are very delusively laid, & it is only as we bow in true humility before the Lord, and become divested of every thing that is high & lifted up, that we can ~~know~~ a being preserved from the many snares so artfully laid to beguile us of true peace, and receive a qualification to fill our places in the Church, and to be built up in the most Holy Faith.

May we be willing to endure the chastening hand of the Lord upon us, ("For what son is there whom the Father chasteneth not") that we may be thoroughly fitted and prepared for the work which he assigns unto us. And altho this is a day of trial to the honest hearted, yet we feel a word of encouragement to such every where, that they may ~~know~~ be enabled to hold fast the profession of their faith without wavering.

Your acceptable Epistle of last year was received and read to our comfort, evincing to us, that when this Epistolary Correspondence is entered into under the influence of best wisdom, it cannot fail of having a cementing influence, binding the true seed in the bundle of life; but on the contrary when it is conducted in a merely formal manner, the tendency thereof is to produce only spiritual death; for a bare profession of the Truth without the possession of it avails nothing in the Divine Sight

With the salutation of love we are your friends Friends & Bretheren

Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting by
Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this Year

Copied & forwarded to
Wm Waring
Port Deposit
Cecil Co
St Maryland

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15th of 6 mo 1862 to the 18th of the same inclusive

To Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends,

Having been again permitted to meet in our annual assembly, and feeling our hearts contrited under a humiliating sense of our unworthiness of the Lords mercies, our distant brethren have been feelingly brought near to us, desiring; desiring that the good Shepherd will still continue to extend the crook of his love unto you, and that we may through the effectual operation of his spirit be bound together in the bundle of life. — As we are concerned to dwell deep, to build on the sure foundation even on Christ Jesus the Rock of ages we shall be enabled to feel his life giving presence to be with us to support us in all our afflictions, and to lead us safely on in the pathway of holiness; thus we shall be enabled to discern between that which savors of the Truth and that which savors of error, and be strengthened to bear a faithful testimony against the compromising spirit of the world. We feel that the enemy of all good is as artful in this day as ever he was, endeavoring by his delusive stratagems to draw us aside from the paths of Truth and Holiness; and the necessity is as [illegible] for us and seek counsel of Him who remains to be the wonderful Counsellor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father and the Prince of peace. May we then leave the things which are behind, and press forward toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, that so in the day which shall come to try all flesh we may be of that happy number, "who came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb; therefore are they before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple, and He that sitteth on His throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither ~~shall they~~ thirst any more, neither shall the sun light on them nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters; and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

We have received your acceptable Epistle of last year which was read to our satisfaction and edification

With a salutation of Gospel love we remain your friends

Signed by direction & on behalf of the meeting by

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk this year

Copied & forwarded by mail to Wm Waring
9th of 1 mo 1862